



PM BRICEÑO AT WORLD BANK

Delivering For Small States



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"Small states today stand at the intersection of intensifying global shocks and persistent structural constraints. We confront a convergence of pressures—geopolitical tensions driving volatility in energy and commodity markets, tightening fiscal space... Small states are not without strength. We are agile. We are resilient. We have untapped potential—in our people, in our oceans and lands, in our capacity to adapt and innovate." - **PM Briceño** in Remarks in Washington, DC (Speech on Pg 7)

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Docked in City Harbour

Symbol of Enduring Friendship ■ Pg. 5

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Girls in ICT Day 2026

"Lead Like A 501Girl"

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BTB hosts CTO's 17th Sustainable Tourism Conference April 27-30, 2026
San Pedro, Ambergris Caye | "TOURISM in Full Color"

PM BRICEÑO AT WORLD BANK



April 17th 2026 - Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño today chaired a high-level event titled “Delivering for Small States: From Strategy to Results. In October of 2025, it was announced that PM Briceño would assume the Chairmanship of the Small States Forum of the World Bank for the period January 2026 to December 2028. He is now exercising this capacity at the 2026 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C. The highlight of the World Bank Group’s new Small States Strategy is JOB CREATION. This is at the center of development support for small states while addressing structural vulnerabilities and economic shocks that disproportionately affect small economies.

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Briceño emphasized that Small States continue to confront overlapping pressures, including tightening fiscal space, rising energy and food costs, and the accelerating impacts of climate change. Still representing Belize, PM underscored the importance of development approaches that are tailored to the specific realities of small states.

The Belizean delegation included the Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Education, Culture, Science and Technology; Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation; Ambassador Stuart Leslie, Cabinet Secretary; Joseph Waight, Financial Secretary; H.E. Nestor Mendez, Ambassador to the United States of America and Permanent Representative of Belize to the Organization of American States; Zita Magaña, Deputy Financial Secretary; Kareem Michael, Governor of the Central Bank of Belize; and Claude Haylock, Director General of the Financial Service Commission (FSC).

For context, the Small States Forum is an annual event held during the IMF and World Bank Meetings provide a unique platform for dialogue on development issues specific to small states and for highlighting the specific challenges confronted by them, including vulnerability to economic and environmental shocks. It also serves as an important space to advocate for a tailored approach by the World Bank Group to these small economies. The members of the Small States Forum participate at the level of Governors to the World Bank, engaging directly with the institution’s highest authorities.

It is worth noting that the October 2025 handing over of the leadership took place during a meeting of the Small States Forum, convened to review the draft strategy with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible. Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño addressed the gathering via pre-recorded video, expressing Belize’s appreciation for this designation and reaffirming his commitment to ensuring that small states receive the tailored attention they need through fit-for-purpose programs and initiatives from the World Bank. Then, Belize took over the Chairmanship from the Republic of Cabo Verde.

Co-Authored World Bank Blog A New World Bank Group Strategy for Small States: Putting Jobs at the Centre

By Gallina Vincelette and John Briceño

Small States face a unique and often underestimated set of economic challenges. Their size, geography, and exposure to external forces mean that shocks—whether climate-related, economic, or geopolitical—can have disproportionately large and lasting effects. For small businesses, a single hurricane, a sudden surge in imported fuel prices, or a downturn in tourism can undo months of investment and income in a matter of days.

When Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica as a Category 5 storm in October 2025—one of the strongest hurricanes on record—roads were blocked, ports closed, and tourism bookings disappeared overnight. Businesses were forced to shut their doors, and jobs and incomes across multiple sectors were suddenly at risk. What is often labelled as “high risk” in small states reflects structural exposure to forces largely beyond their control.

Small states face a combination of constraints—geographic isolation, small populations, reliance on imports, and narrow economic bases—that limit production, reduce economies of scale, and raise the cost of doing business. These challenges are frequently compounded by recurrent shocks, from climate disasters to external demand volatility, which constrain private investment and slow the creation of sustainable jobs. Yet vulnerability is not destiny. With focused support, tailored solutions, and efficient delivery, these constraints can be mitigated and transformed into opportunities for growth and employment.

Decades of engagement with small states—including through the Small States Forum, currently chaired by the Government of Belize—have reinforced a central lesson: a one-size-fits-all development model does not work. The World Bank Group’s new Small States Strategy responds to this reality. It is built around three mutually reinforcing principles—selectivity, differentiation, and efficiency—all in service of a single objective: sustainable job creation.

Selectivity: Doing Fewer Things Better

The first principle, selectivity, focuses support on six, priority “Lighthouse Initiatives”: health, connectivity, energy, resilient infrastructure, fiscal sustainability, and support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). These areas offer the greatest potential to unlock private investment, strengthen businesses, and expand employment opportunities across small states.

Creating more and better jobs starts

PM Briceño Chairs Small States Event at Spring Meetings

Belmopan, April 17, 2026.

Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño today chaired a high-level event titled “Delivering for Small States: From Strategy to Results,” held during the 2026 Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C.

The event highlighted the World Bank Group’s new Small States Strategy, which places job creation at the center of development support for small states while addressing structural vulnerabilities and economic shocks that disproportionately affect these economies.

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Briceño emphasized that Small States continue to confront overlapping pressures, including tightening fiscal space, rising energy and food costs, and the accelerating impacts of climate change. He underscored the importance of development approaches that are tailored to the specific realities of small states.

The Belizean delegation attending the annual Spring Meetings includes Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Education, Culture, Science and Technology; Hon. Osmond Martinez, Minister of State in the Ministry of Economic Transformation; Ambassador Stuart Leslie, Cabinet Secretary; Joseph Waight, Financial Secretary; H.E. Nestor Mendez, Ambassador to the United States of America and Permanent Representative of Belize to the Organization of American States; Zita Magaña, Deputy Financial Secretary; Kareem Michael, Governor of the Central Bank of Belize; and Claude Haylock, Director General of the Financial Service Commission (FSC).

GOB - UNDP LAUNCH Rehabilitation, Reintegration, & Youth Governance Transformative Youth Initiative

“Strengthening Youth Governance and Institutional Resilience for Peacebuilding in Belize”

Belmopan, Belize – April 15, 2026

– The Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), officially launched a transformative initiative titled “Strengthening Youth Governance and Institutional Resilience for Peacebuilding in Belize” at the New Beginnings Youth Development Centre.

The initiative represents a major step forward in strengthening Belize’s youth development and rehabilitation systems, with a focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable youth, including those in state care and in conflict with the law.

Delivering remarks at the soft launch, Hon. Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Minister of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs, reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to ensuring that every young person is supported, protected, and given the opportunity to thrive. She noted that the initiative responds directly to longstanding gaps in policy, coordination, and institutional capacity, and reflects a bold, integrated approach to youth development and peacebuilding.

Minister Garcia-Ramirez further emphasized the ongoing transformation of the New Beginnings Youth Development Centre from a detention-based model to one grounded in rehabilitation and reintegration, marking a significant shift in how Belize supports its youth, in both philosophy and practice.

The initiative was developed by UNDP at the request of the Honourable Minister and is supported through UNDP’s Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis, and Resilience (GPR) Funding Window,

Continued on page 8

with clear diagnostics. A new series of Country Growth and Jobs Reports identifies the most binding constraints to private-sector-led hiring in each country. Tonga piloted this approach, with similar work now underway in Barbados, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritius, Samoa, and Seychelles. By putting jobs at the centre and focusing on the highest-impact levers, these diagnostics help governments and partners move more quickly from insight to action.

Health provides a clear example of selectivity in practice. In the Pacific, rather than duplicating high-cost tertiary health systems across multiple small island states, Fiji is being developed as a regional medical hub. Kiribati, Tonga, and Tuvalu connect as spokes through improved telehealth platforms and cross-border referral systems. By investing selectively, regional tools, infrastructure, and training can be built once and shared across countries, reducing costs while expanding access and employment in health services.

Differentiation: Tailoring Solutions to Context

Small states are highly diverse in their constraints, capacities, and opportunities. What drives job creation in a larger coastal economy differs markedly from what works in a remote micro-state. Differentiation is therefore essential. The strategy adjusts

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The Belize Times

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The Truth Shall Make You Free

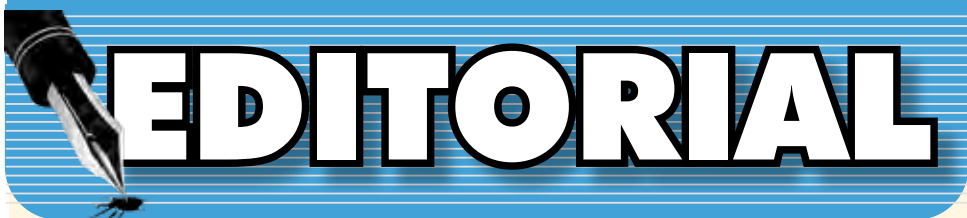
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TOURISM & AGRICULTURE: AN ECONOMIC TANDEM

Five and a half years ago, as the planBelize Government sought to unshackle Belize from despair and hopelessness, brought on by the shamelessly self-proclaimed corrupt Barrow administration, a tandem of sectors rose from the ashes to slay economic ruin and become pillars in the quest to be the financial sparkplugs needed to make Belize work for everyone. Poised to work with Prime Minister John Briceño and team, Agriculture and Tourism, led by then Minister Jose Mai and Minister Anthony Mahler, were months into planning for lift-off as soon as the November 2020 election results were announced. Literally, on day one, both sectors hit the ground running with cattle rushing out of Belize and calls to schedule airlines and cruise ships to return to Belize's ports. Today, all that is documented history. The end of April 2026 is approaching, and this usually spells 'Agric', but this year, at the beginning of the same week, the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) will be holding a conference in San Pedro, Belize. The former will showcase its sector, while the latter will showcase and discuss how to approach alternative integrated tourism development models.

The Belize Tourism Board will host the CTO, which has assembled some 53 speakers for its 17th Sustainable Tourism Conference (STC 2026), anchored in the concept of "Tourism in Full Colour: Integrating Blue, Green, Orange and Beyond Economies." Their speech presentations will be on the Blue Economy, which is behind the use of marine and coastal assets, the Green Economy that advances low-carbon, climate-resilient and nature-positive solutions, the Orange Economy that seeks to unlock the value of culture, heritage and creative industries, and then the Purple Economy, which emphasises social cohesion, identity, wellbeing and inclusive growth. The Minister of Tourism, Youth, Sports & Diaspora Relations, Anthony Mahler, will present with fellow cabinet colleague, Minister of Sustainable Development and Climate Change Orlando Habet, who will also speak. They will be among a dozen Belizeans presenting, but this is both a Caribbean and a global event. We must mention that twenty-nine of the presenters are female, making for a very diverse international panel. The keynote address will draw on Indigenous knowledge and inclusive frameworks gathered during time as Chief Executive of New Zealand Māori Tourism. She is Dame Pania Tyson-Nathan, DNZM, who will deliver "Tourism in Full Colour – A New Development Paradigm", which examines a more holistic approach to tourism development. The expectation is grand. Visit caribbeanstc.com/speakers/ for a lot more. Register if there is still time.

As the CTO conference comes to a close, the Agric show opens to the expected weekend of excitement laced with exhibits of the best there is in Agriculture: Crops, Livestock, Agroprocessing, Cooperatives, Farmer of the Year in three categories, Ministry, Departments, Organisations, and the usual entertainment accompanying the exposé of hard work. The National Agriculture and Trade Show 2026 is truly a tradition that has grown alongside the sector that feeds Belize. The CTO conference will hear ad nauseam that Belize eats what its farmers produce. Belize can feed itself, yet it has enough to export. The challenge is to ensure that all varieties of vegetables demanded by consumers are always available. Agriculture is now dabbling into Pitahaya, Sorghum, Soy, Rice, Coconuts, and other non-traditional crops. The Farm to Table of planBelize has truly become a Farm for Foreign exchange as well. Belize becoming a major sustainable food producer for the Caribbean is being credibly discussed within CARICOM, given the recent dramatic improvements in Belize's food security. The theme of the Agric show says a lot: "Advancing Smart Agriculture: Building a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Belizean Food System".

As arrivals at the International Airport break records, the Government has been using, among other approaches, a food-focused marketing strategy by both sectors. This approach describes how many eggs, fruits, and meats tourists who travel to Belize consume. The Hotel Industry is also a restaurant industry, as they aim to ensure guest satisfaction and repeat visits. One way to ensure both goals is to feed tourists well. This level of food security by our very own Agriculture sector bodes well for both sectors. Belizeans are learning today that depending on imports also affects their prices. What we do not produce makes Belize hostage to the ups and downs of supply. For example, Belizeans demand fuel; thus, we must pay millions of dollars. When Belizeans and visitors demand a variety of foods, our farmers ensure they have broccoli, carrots, sweet peppers, cauliflower, beans, shrimp, coconuts, cilantro, and other fruits and vegetables that can be grown in Belize.

As the plenary sessions and technical workshops of the CTO move to fun visits to the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, and to mainland site like the Lamanai Archaeological Reserve, Hopkins Experience (Palmento Grove Eco-Cultural and Healing Lodge, Che'il Mayan Chocolate, and Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary), and The Chaa Creek Experience, offering firsthand insight into community-based tourism, marine and terrestrial conservation, and cultural heritage initiatives, they will view the bread basket. The CTO is calling it 'curated immersive experiences', and here they will definitely have the opportunity to view agricultural fields and have a glimpse of the fields where our food comes from. Mother Nature's best-kept secret is out, and Belize is opening it to the world with all protection intact. Today, we borrow Belize from our children, ensuring they continue to own it as Mother Nature's best-kept secret.

en Español

TURISMO Y AGRICULTURA: UN TÁNDEM ECONÓMICO

Hace cinco años y medio, cuando el Gobierno de Belice se propuso liberar al país de la desesperación y la desesperanza provocadas por la administración Barrow —una administración que se auto-proclamaba descaradamente corrupta—, un tándem de sectores resurgió de sus cenizas para acabar con la ruina económica y convertirse en pilares fundamentales en la búsqueda de los motores financieros necesarios para que Belice funcionara en beneficio de todos. Listos para trabajar con el primer ministro John Briceño y su equipo, los sectores de la agricultura y el turismo, liderados por el entonces ministro José Mai y el ministro Anthony Mahler, llevaban meses planificando el despegue tan pronto como se anunciaran los resultados de las elecciones de noviembre de 2020. Literalmente, desde el primer día, ambos sectores se pusieron manos a la obra con el traslado urgente de ganado fuera de Belice y las peticiones para programar el regreso de aerolíneas y cruceros a los puertos de Belice. Hoy en día, todo eso es historia documentada. Se acerca el final de abril de 2026, y esto suele significar «Agric», pero este año, a principios de la misma semana, la Organización de Turismo del Caribe (CTO) celebrará una conferencia en San Pedro, Belice. La primera mostrará su sector, mientras que la segunda presentará y debatirá sobre cómo abordar modelos alternativos de desarrollo turístico integrado.

La Junta de Turismo de Belice acogerá a la CTO, que ha reunido a unos 53 ponentes para su 17.ª Conferencia de Turismo Sostenible (STC 2026), basada en el concepto de «Turismo a todo color: integrando las economías azul, verde, naranja y más allá». Sus ponencias versarán sobre la economía azul que sustenta el uso de los recursos marinos y costeros; la economía verde, que promueve soluciones bajas en carbono, resilientes al clima y positivas para la naturaleza; la economía naranja, que busca potenciar el valor de la cultura, el patrimonio y las industrias creativas; y, por último, la economía púrpura, que hace hincapié en la cohesión social, la identidad, el bienestar y el crecimiento inclusivo. El ministro de Turismo, Juventud, Deportes y Relaciones con la Diáspora, Anthony Mahler, hará una presentación junto a su colega del gabinete, el ministro de Desarrollo Sostenible y Cambio Climático, Orlando Habet, quien también tomará la palabra. Ambos formarán parte de una docena de beliceños que participarán en el evento, aunque se trata de un evento tanto caribeño como global. Cabe mencionar que veintinueve de los ponentes son mujeres, lo que da lugar a un panel internacional muy diverso. El discurso de apertura se basará en los conocimientos indígenas y los marcos inclusivos recopilados durante su etapa como directora ejecutiva de New Zealand Māori Tourism. Se trata de Dame Pania Tyson-Nathan, DNZM, quien pronunciará «Turismo a todo color: un nuevo paradigma de desarrollo», en el que examina un enfoque más holístico del desarrollo turístico. Las expectativas son enormes. Visite caribbeanstc.com/speakers/ para obtener mucha más información. Inscribise si aún hay tiempo.

A medida que la conferencia de la CTO llega a su fin, la feria agrícola abre sus puertas para el esperado fin de semana de emoción, salpicado de exposiciones de lo mejor de la agricultura: cultivos, ganadería, agroprocesamiento, cooperativas, el Agricultor del Año en tres categorías, ministerios, departamentos, organizaciones y el entretenimiento habitual que acompaña a la exposición del arduo trabajo. La Feria Nacional de Agricultura y Comercio 2026 es verdaderamente una tradición que ha crecido junto al sector que alimenta a Belice. En la conferencia de la CTO se escuchará hasta la saciedad que Belice consume lo que producen sus agricultores. Belice puede alimentarse a sí mismo, pero tiene suficiente para exportar. El reto es garantizar que todas las variedades de hortalizas que los consumidores demandan estén disponibles en todo momento. La agricultura se está adentrando ahora en la pitahaya, el sorgo, la soja, el arroz, los cocos y otros cultivos no tradicionales. El plan «De la granja a la mesa» de Belice también se ha convertido verdaderamente en una «Granja para las divisas». El hecho de que Belice se convierta en un importante productor de alimentos sostenibles para el Caribe se discute con seriedad en el seno de la CARICOM, dadas las recientes y espectaculares mejoras en su seguridad alimentaria. El lema de la feria Agrícola lo dice todo: «Impulsar la agricultura inteligente: construir un sistema alimentario beliceño sostenible y resiliente al clima».

A medida que las llegadas al Aeropuerto Internacional baten récords, el Gobierno ha recurrido, entre otros enfoques, a una estrategia de marketing centrada en la alimentación en ambos sectores. Este enfoque describe la cantidad de huevos, frutas y carnes que consumen los turistas que viajan a Belice. La industria hotelera también es parte de la restauración, ya que su objetivo es garantizar la satisfacción de los huéspedes y que repitan sus visitas. Una forma de garantizar ambos objetivos es ofrecer a los turistas una buena alimentación. Este nivel de seguridad alimentaria en nuestro propio sector agrícola es un buen augurio para ambos sectores. Los beliceños están aprendiendo hoy que depender de las importaciones extranjeras también afecta a sus precios. Lo que no producimos hace que Belice sea rehén de los altibajos del suministro. Por ejemplo, los beliceños demandan combustible; por lo tanto, tenemos que pagar millones de dólares. Cuando los beliceños y los visitantes demandan una variedad de alimentos, nuestros agricultores se aseguran de que dispongan de brócoli, zanahorias, pimientos dulces, coliflor, judías, gambas, cocos, cilantro y otras frutas y verduras que pueden cultivarse en Belice.

A medida que las sesiones plenarias y los talleres técnicos de la CTO den paso a visitas lúdicas a la Reserva Marina de Hol Chan y a lugares del continente como la Reserva Arqueológica de Lamanai, Hopkins Experience (Palmento Grove Eco-Cultural and Healing Lodge, Che'il Mayan Chocolate y Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary), y The Chaa Creek Experience, que ofrecen una visión de primera mano sobre el turismo comunitario, la conservación marina y terrestre y las iniciativas de patrimonio cultural, podrán contemplar el granero del país. La CTO lo denomina «experiencias inmersivas seleccionadas», y aquí tendrán sin duda la oportunidad de ver los campos de cultivo y echar un vistazo a los terrenos de donde provienen nuestros alimentos. El secreto mejor guardado de la Madre Naturaleza ha salido a la luz, y Belice lo está revelando al mundo sin que se vea afectada su protección. Hoy, tomamos prestado Belice de nuestros hijos, asegurándonos de que sigan siendo sus dueños como el secreto mejor guardado de la Madre Naturaleza.

Punta Gorda Town Council

THE WORKS CONTINUE ENDLESSLY

Mayor Galvez and Team



Mayor Carlos ‘Obeah’ Galvez has been steadfast in his delivery of service to the people. There has been a little of everything and like in the other councils the work never ceases. He has full support of his Deputy Mayor Jahrine Avila, and Councilors Indira Coleman, Malcolm Galvez, Luana Desiree Hines, Mary Palacio, and Roberto Vires. The town is always vibrant and its collaboration with Central Government has been key to progressing in a highly progressing town

Supporting Our Youth Through Sports!

The PGTC is proud to invest in the future of the community by providing financial support for football training gear for our youth teams (U13, U15, U17) Tribal FC.

The same was done for Basketball and other sports in conjunction with the National Sports Council.



Upgrade/Upkeep of Parks/Roads w/ MIDH



Collaboration w/ Hon. Martinez & Requena



Excellent Rapport with Local Gov't



Organizing Events



Easter Fest



Voice Against GB Violence



Annual PG Day



Christmas Boat Parade



Child Stimulation



Breast Cancer Awareness



Luncheon w/ BDF



Hosting JPs



At HelpAge

TAIWAN'S GOODWILL VISIT STRENGTHENS TIES WITH BELIZE

April 22, 2026 - A vibrant display of music, discipline, and international co-operation unfolded today at Memorial Park as the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) hosted a special cultural performance by its navy marching band. The event, part of the 2026 Midshipmen Cruising and Training Squadron visit, drew students, officials, and members of the public for a rare glimpse into the traditions and training of Taiwan's naval forces.

The two-day visit came as part of a peacekeeping mission the Taiwanese Navy is doing in the Caribbean. The visit kicked off with a tour and a banquet held for the Governor General, H.E. Dame Froyla Tzalam, Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, ministers, area representatives, and other invited dignitaries/guests.

His Worship Mayor Bernard Wagner was honored to welcome the crew and Training Squadron to Belize City, an impressive showcase of precision, training, and exceptional talent that energized Memorial Park.

The performance featured a dynamic combination of precision marching, musical showcases, and martial arts demonstrations, including an impressive Taekwondo display by cadets of the Taiwanese Naval Academy. The presentation highlighted not only the discipline of the visiting unit but also the cultural pride and unity that underpin their training.

Following the public showcase, invited guests were granted access to an open house aboard the visiting naval vessels. The ships, which took approximately fifty days to reach Belize, offered a unique educational experience for students and officials alike. Attendees toured various sections of the vessels, gaining insight into naval operations, living quarters, and the advanced sys-



tems that support long-distance maritime missions.

Beyond the spectacle, the visit carried deeper diplomatic significance. It marked a continuation of the long-standing relationship between Belize and Taiwan. This partnership has spanned nearly four decades and continues to evolve through cooperation in education, security, and capacity building.

Francis Usher, Chief Executive Officer in the Ministry of National Defense and



Border Security, emphasized the importance of this relationship, noting that the visit reflects both shared values and mutual investment in human development.

"This is a part of their goodwill visit to Belize. It was a marching band presentation along with their honor guard and their Taekwondo team, all from the Taiwanese Naval Academy," Usher explained. "As part of their graduating class, we actually had a Belizean, who is Officer Cadet Broaster, who also came as a part of the crew of this ship."

Usher highlighted that the presence of Belizean cadets within Taiwan's training programs is a testament to the depth of cooperation between the two nations. For Officer Cadet Broaster, the visit represents the culmination of four years of rigorous academic and military preparation.

"It's the culmination of four years of training for Officer Cadet Broaster and 37 years of relationship between Belize and Taiwan," Usher added.

The exchange goes beyond ceremonial visits, extending into specialized training opportunities that directly benefit Belize's national development. The Belize Coast Guard engaged at multiple

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A New World Bank Group Strategy for Small States:

Continued from page 2

support to country-specific circumstances, ensuring that interventions align with local realities and comparative advantages.

In Belize, a low-lying coastal small island developing state, the Blue Cities and Beyond program demonstrates this approach. By strengthening coastal management, improving water supply, and reducing pollution that threatens fisheries and reefs, the program helps protect a blue economy that generates more than US\$1 billion annually and supports jobs across tourism, fishing, and marine industries.

Differentiation also means unlocking private finance where commercial capital rarely flows. In many small states, businesses are perceived as too risky by local banks, and international investors invest cautiously. In Botswana, a landlocked developing country, IFC helped address this challenge by developing the country's first utility-scale solar project without a sovereign guarantee. The project brought a domestic bank into the transaction through dual-currency financing and mobilized US\$80 million in investments. The World Bank is in parallel financing the strengthening of the grid, and the first utility-scale battery storage system, to enable the integration of solar projects into the grid. The result is not only a solar plant, but a replicable model for how unlocking private finance can open markets and create jobs.

Efficiency and Delivery at Scale

Selectivity and differentiation ultimately support a shared objective: achieving greater efficiency and delivery at scale. Efficiency means moving faster, reducing fragmentation, and ensuring that every dollar delivers maximum impact—particularly in moments of crisis.

In the past year alone, the World Bank Group approved a record US\$3.3 billion in new commitments and guarantees for small states. Instruments such as the Crisis Preparedness and Response Toolkit enabled rapid assistance in Vanuatu, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, helping governments protect businesses and jobs during the critical period after a shock before temporary disruptions became permanent losses. By directing financing strategically, the strategy aims to crowd in private investment that might otherwise bypass small states, multiplying its impact where it is needed most.

Small states cannot change their size or geography. But they can build economies that generate jobs, provide income and dignity, and strengthen resilience against future shocks. Implementation of the Small States Strategy is already underway through WBG Country Partnership Frameworks and in close collaboration with governments and partners. For small business owners across small states, effective execution of this strategy can translate into more stable livelihoods, stronger opportunities, and a more resilient economic future.



Blue Bond and Finance Permanence Unit Office of the Prime Minister Belize City, Belize

CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Individual Consultancy for a Case Study on the Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for Belize's High Seas Fishing Vessels

The Blue Bond and Finance Permanence (BBFP) Unit within the Office of the Prime Minister, invites qualified individual consultants to submit proposals for a consultancy for a Case Study on the Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for Belize's High Seas Fishing Vessels.

The objective of this consultancy is to conduct a comprehensive case study on the implementation of the EMP onboard Belize's high seas fishing vessels.

SPECIFIC TASKS INCLUDE:

- Conduct literature review of relevant policies, frameworks, and EMS implementation in Belize and globally.
- Engage stakeholders through interviews to gather insights on EMS implementation, operation, challenges, and compliance.
- Collect and analyze data to assess EMS effectiveness, identify challenges, and evaluate impacts on compliance and fisheries management.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of Belize's EMS implementation against international initiatives, highlighting best practices and lessons learned.
- Develop and present a comprehensive EMS case study highlighting background, findings, challenges, and recommendations.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE OF CONSULTANT:

- Postgraduate degree in fisheries, marine conservation, environmental science, policy analysis, research, communications, or related field.
- At least 5 years' demonstrated experience in fisheries governance, compliance monitoring, marine conservation, research, communications, or related field.
- Proven experience conducting at least two similar assignments (e.g., case studies, policy analyses, impact assessments).
- Demonstrated experience working with government, fisheries, or international organizations.
- Strong analytical and report-writing skills, with at least one relevant report or publication.

Duration: Three (3) months

Extended Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026, by 10:00 am (BZ Time)

**Full Terms of Reference is available at: www.bhsfu.gov.bz/opportunities
Only proposals submitted in accordance with the official ToR will be considered.
Only shortlisted consultants will be contacted.**

TAIWAN'S GOOD- WILL VISIT STRENGTHENS TIES WITH BELIZE

Continued from page 5

levels with the 2026 Midshipmen Cruising and Training Squadron. BCG officers and sailors had the opportunity to interact and exchange knowledge with their counterparts from the ROC (Taiwan) Navy.

"We had an officer, now a pilot in the BDF, who did his initial pilot training at the Taiwanese Air Force Academy," he noted. "Officer Cadet Broaster is actually going back to Taiwan, along with the ship, and he's going into their Marine Corps training to specialize in being a Marine infantry type officer."

Such opportunities, CEO Usher stated, are critical in strengthening Belize's defense capabilities.

"What we find is that Taiwan helps us a lot in specialty training in different ways to develop the capacity," he said. "Taiwan has cracked the code. They invest in Belize's most important resource, and that's the Belizean people."

The return of Taiwanese naval ships to Belize after a 13-year absence adds further significance to the visit, symbolizing renewed engagement and continued collaboration. For many attendees, the event was not only entertaining but also inspiring, offering a tangible reminder of the benefits of international partnership.

As the performances concluded and tours wrapped up, the message remained clear: the Belize-Taiwan relationship continues to be rooted in shared growth, cultural exchange, and investment in future generations.





TERMS OF REFERENCE



Gef 6: Integrated management of production landscapes to deliver multiple global environmental benefits, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management

Communications Specialist

A. Background
The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management (MSDCCDRM) is dedicated to leading Belize toward a socio-ecologically resilient future through the wise management of human and natural capital. To support this mission and the implementation of the GEF 6 project, the Ministry is seeking a **Communications Specialist**. This role is pivotal in developing a cohesive communication strategy to increase visibility, engage the public, and inform stakeholders on progress regarding sustainable development and climate resiliency.

B. Application Process
Qualified and interested persons are to submit:

- a) A signed cover letter outlining suitability for the position.
- b) A detailed Curriculum Vitae or Resume with full details of experience, achievements, qualifications, and copies of degrees and certifications.
- c) Two (2) recent professional reference letters with contact details.

Applications should be identified as — **“Application for Communications Specialist – Your name”** in the subject matter of the email. All applications must be submitted in one **PDF file** via email to:

Judene Tingling Linares
Project Director
Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management
7552 Hummingbird Highway City of Belmopan, Cayo District

Email : coord.pppu@environment.gov.bz
CC : pm.gef6@environment.gov.bz

Deadline: Applications must be received no later than **May 8th, 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO ACCESS THE FULL TOR AND ITS LIST OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS





Request for Bids (RFB)

Water Supply & Modernization Program
BL-L1043
Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well

1. This RFB follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project publicized as of **13th April 2026**.
2. Belize Water Services Limited has received financing from the Inter-American Development Bank toward the cost of Water Supply & Modernization Program and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the Contract for **Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well**.
3. The **Belize Water Services Limited** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Construction (Supply & Install) of 100k US Gallon Concrete Clear Well at the Dangriga WTP**. The delivery/construction period is **365 days from Start Date as specified in ITB 5.4 (k)**.
4. The RFB will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Inter-American Development Bank's *Policies for the Procurement of Goods and Works financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2349-15* and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the bidding document.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Belize Water Services Limited, Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist at rce@bwsl.com.bz**.
6. Qualification requirements include: *copies of original documents defining the constitution, Power of Attorney, experience in works of similar nature and size for the past 5 years and other information as requested in the RFB document ITB 5.*
7. A complete set of the bidding document in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below. The bidding document will be sent by email.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **2:00 p.m. 20th May 2026**. Electronic bidding **“shall not”** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically at **2:15 p.m. 20th May 2026** in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line.
9. All bids **“shall”** be accompanied by a **“Bid Security”** of **3% of bid price in BZE Dollars or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency**.
10. The address referred to above is: **Mr. Leonardo Folgarait, Procurement Specialist, Belize Water Services Limited, 7 Central American Boulevard, Belize City, Belize C.A.**

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

2026 SMALL STATES EVENT DELIVERING FOR SMALL STATES: FROM STRATEGY TO RESULTS *OPENING REMARKS* **PRIME MINISTER JOHN BRICENO**

WASHINGTON, DC
FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2026



President Banga,
Distinguished colleagues and partners,
Welcome.

We gather at a consequential moment for our countries. This Strategy marks a renewed compact between the World Bank Group and small states—grounded in partnership, in responsiveness, and in a shared commitment to resilience and opportunity for our people. Indeed, the timing could not be more auspicious. Small states today stand at the intersection of intensifying global shocks and persistent structural constraints. We confront a convergence of pressures—geopolitical tensions driving volatility in energy and commodity markets, tightening fiscal space, and most important, the accelerating impacts of climate change. These pressures do not occur one at a time. They overlap. They compound.

And for small, open, import-dependent economies, they are felt first—and felt hardest. At the same time, as the Strategy recognizes, long-standing constraints—limited diversification, high exposure to external shocks, and capacity limitations—continue to weigh on growth, job creation, and resilience. For us in Belize, this is clear. Coastlines are eroding. Agricultural land is diminishing. Food costs are rising. And the pressures on livelihoods and public health are growing. These are not distant threats. They are present realities.

But this moment is not defined by adversity alone. It is also a moment to act with clarity and purpose. Small states are not without strength. We are agile. We are resilient. We have untapped potential—in our people, in our oceans and lands, in our capacity to adapt and innovate. If I may be bold, this makes us sexy.

What we need now more than ever is a system that is equipped to support and harness that potential. That is why this Strategy matters. It signals a more deliberate approach by the World Bank Group — one that recognizes that one size does not fit all. We require engagement that is tailored to our realities, integrated across sectors, and delivered with speed and flexibility. Because for us, development does not happen in silos. Fiscal resilience must be tied to climate resilience. Infrastructure is tied to growth. Capacity is tied to delivery. And when one part falters, the entire system is affected. And when shocks come—as they inevitably do—a single event can set back years of progress.

So the response must be different. This brings me to a simple but important point. We look to the World Bank Group to institutionalize this approach—to embed small states not at the margins of its operations, but at the center of a deliberate, differentiated model of engagement that delivers as one system, country by country, and challenge by challenge. Because that is what effectiveness requires. And that is what this moment demands. Partnership, of course, remains essential. No small state can meet these challenges alone. No single institution can provide all the solutions. But with stronger coordination—across partners, across sectors, and across instruments—we can reduce fragmentation, align support, and scale impact.

In that spirit, we will hear later in the session from several ministers and development partners, whose perspectives will be essential as we consider how this Strategy is translated into delivery on the ground. That is the role of this Forum. Not only to convene—but to connect. Not only to discuss—but to deliver.

Ministers, distinguished colleagues,

The true measure of this Strategy will not be in its ambition, but in its execution. If we get this right, we will not only strengthen resilience. We will expand opportunity. We will help build economies that are even more dynamic, more inclusive, and more secure.

Mr. President, this morning, as I walked into the World Bank building, my eyes caught the words that define this institution: *“Our dream is a world free of poverty on a livable planet.”*

President Banga, you made history at the World Bank by delivering on your commitment to a Small States Strategy. Now, together, let’s seize the opportunity to make global history, by implementing this Strategy with the discipline, speed, and integration required to turn that promise into lived reality for the countries that need it most. That is where this Strategy’s legacy will be written—not in its launch, but in its execution, and in the tangible gains it delivers for small states across generations.

It is now my pleasure to invite the President of the World Bank Group, Ajay Banga, to share his reflections.

Thank you.

MoECST-UNICEF

Girls in ICT Day 2026

"Lead Like A 501Girl"

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST), in partnership with UNICEF, officially hosted the Girls in ICT Day 2026 today at the Grand Resort and Residences in Belize City. The recurring theme, "Lead Like A 501Girl," is a powerful once that shaes to an audience Belizean young females moving ahead in a field that previously had been dominated by males. Furhter, this event highlights a shared commitment to advancing digital equity and fostering STEM opportunities for these young women throughout Belize.

This is being done through interactive technical sessions involving cryptography and drone flight coding. The initiative provides participants with the foundational skills to navigate and lead within the global Information and Communication Technology landscape, ensuring a more inclusive and innovative future for the nation's digital economy.

It is an endeavour that is critical for bridging the gender gap in technology. It directly addresses the underrepresentation of females in ICT by providing encouragement, mentorship, and practical experience. The theme promotes confidence and leadership, empowering young Belizean women to take charge and break barriers. By providing exposure to tech careers, the event aims to inspire girls to shape the digital future of Belize and enter, rather than just participate in, the workforce.

This fourth annual event highlights a, country-wide commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in STEM.



Transformative Youth Initiative

Continued from page 2
providing catalytic financing of BZD100,000 to strengthen institutional systems and youth- focused interventions.

Speaking on behalf of UNDP, Amilin Mendez, Team Lead for Inclusive Growth, Digitization and Governance, highlighted the vision underpinning the initiative, stating:

"From vulnerability to possibility, building systems that truly believe in our young people. This initiative is not just a project; it is a commitment to ensuring that every young person, especially those most vulnerable, is met with systems that support, protect, and empower them."

The project supports the continued strengthening of the New Beginnings Youth Development Centre as a rehabilitative, rights-based facility. Through a comprehensive package of interventions, the initiative will:

- Strengthen case management systems and introduce individualized transition and aftercare plans
- Support family reintegration and long-term development pathways for youth
- Build staff capacity in trauma-informed care, de-escalation, and relationship-building
- Expand psychosocial and therapeutic support for residents and staff
- Enhance safeguarding systems to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and promote dignity, protection, and accountability

The initiative aligns with Belize's broader national priorities, including justice reform efforts under the PACE Justice Programme, which promotes diversion, rehabilitation, and non-penal approaches for youth in conflict with the law.

As Belize continues to invest in its young people, this initiative signals a renewed national commitment to transforming systems of care and ensuring that every youth, regardless of circumstance, can heal, grow, and contribute meaningfully to society. (release)



Ministry of
Human Development,
Family Support, and
Gender Affairs

WHAT WE DO WEDNESDAY

Supporting Belizeans at Every Stage

Supporting Belizeans at Every Stage

Across Belize, individuals and families face different challenges at different points in their lives and the Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs is committed to providing support every step of the way. Over the past several weeks, our What We Do Wednesday series has highlighted key services that protect and empower:

- Family Support and Gender Affairs initiatives
- Child protection, foster care, and adoption services
- Alternative care for children in need of protection
- Support for victims of trafficking in persons

These efforts reflect a national commitment to safety, dignity, and care for the most vulnerable.

But our work continues.

Support also extends to individuals in need of guidance, rehabilitation, and reintegration, helping to create safer communities and opportunities for positive change.

Facebook & Instagram:

Ministry of Human Development, Family Support and Gender Affairs

Serving People. Strengthening Families. Building Communities.

Announcement

Central Bank of Belize Instant Payments Modernization

“connect banks, credit unions, and digital wallets into one shared payment system, allowing money to move easily and instantly”

April 22, 2026 - Belize is moving closer to a fully modernized financial system with the announcement of a new Instant Payment System (IPS), a major initiative led by the Central Bank of Belize to transform how money moves across the country.

At a signing ceremony held in Belize City on April 21, 2026, the Central Bank confirmed it has entered into an agreement with Montran Corporation to design and implement the platform. The project, supported by the World Bank, signals a significant shift toward faster, more inclusive, and efficient financial transactions for businesses and individuals alike.

Governor Kareem Michael described the initiative as a cornerstone of Belize’s long-term financial reform agenda. “This is modernization with purpose,” he said, noting that the system builds on earlier advancements such as the Automated Payments and Securities Settlement System introduced in 2016.

The IPS is expected to eliminate long-standing delays in electronic transactions, which currently depend on limited

banking windows. Under the new system, payments will be processed continuously, allowing users to send and receive funds at any time. “What IPS will deliver is payment 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, allowing money to move when the economy moves, not just when the banks

are open,” Michael explained.

Montran representative Matt Walsh highlighted that Belize is aligning with global trends, noting that instant payment systems are already in place in nearly 100 countries, further underscoring the government’s commitment to keeping Belize competitive on the international stage. And for everyday Belizeans, the changes will soon be both visible and practical. The shift toward digital finance will allow users to send and receive money using simple identifiers such as phone numbers, PINs, or QR codes, eliminating the need for lengthy banking details and making transactions quicker and more accessible for merchants and small businesses, while a request-to-pay feature will offer a more secure and transparent way to handle billing.

A key component of the system is interoperability, ensuring that all financial institutions—banks, credit unions, and digital wallets—can operate within a single, connected network. Governor Michael noted, “IPS... will connect banks, credit unions, and digital wallets into one shared payment system, allowing money to move easily and instantly between

individuals and businesses regardless of the provider.”

The project is now entering an 18-month implementation phase, which will include system development, testing, and coordination with financial institutions to ensure readiness. Full rollout is expected in early 2028, with a phased approach designed to guarantee stability and reliability. “This deliberate pace reflects the strategic importance of the initiative and a commitment to delivering a robust, sustainable system,” he stated.

In addition to technical preparations, the Central Bank plans to launch a nationwide public education campaign to promote awareness and encourage adoption of digital payments. Officials say this effort will be critical in ensuring that all Belizeans, including those in underserved communities, can benefit from the new system.

The IPS is also expected to strengthen the country’s financial resilience by improving efficiency in money transfers and reducing operational risks. By enabling instant settlement, the system will support better cash flow management for businesses and enhance overall confidence in the financial sector.

Governor Michael underscored that the initiative is not just about technology, but about national development. “This represents a key component of the Central Bank’s broader national strategy to enhance financial system resilience, improve operational efficiency, and advance financial inclusion across Belize.”

With the groundwork now in place, attention is turning to local financial institutions, which are being urged to upgrade their systems to ensure full participation. The Central Bank has made it clear that collaboration across the banking sector will be essential to the platform’s success.

As Belize prepares for the rollout of the IPS, the move represents a transformative step toward a more connected, efficient, and inclusive financial future—one where transactions are no longer bound by time, but driven by the pace of everyday life.



SPECIAL CALL Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children Immediate Action in Child Abuse Case Involving a Police Officer

The Office of the Special Envoy for the Development of Families and Children expresses deep concern and outrage with the appalling act of abuse inflicted upon a child and a woman within the sanctity of their own home. What makes this incident even more alarming is that the perpetrator was a police officer, an individual entrusted with the solemn duty to uphold the law, protect the vulnerable, and embody the values of service and integrity.

We therefore call upon the Minister and CEO of Home Affairs, as well as the Commissioner of Police, to take decisive administrative action to ensure that this officer is removed from duty and held accountable for his actions. No officer should ever stand above the law, and those who fail to honor their responsibility to safeguard the well-being of our citizens, especially of those within their own homes, have forfeited the privilege of wearing the uniform.

#CALLTHEMOUT! #CONVICT
AND #DISMISS! (release)

This call joins the thousands of voices that seek to castigate the abominable actions of a police officer upon a citizen of Belize that is both under his care and vulnerable. As a community we need to look out for our future, the children.

DIFFERENT GENERATIONS

SAME GAME

**KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE BY
PURCHASING YOUR BOLEDO TICKET TODAY**

**BELIZE GOVERNMENT
LOTTERIES LTD.**

Players must be 18 years or older. Play responsibly.

LETTER TO THE Editor

Dear Editor:

I have been commuting for the best more than 20 years and this is my opinion on the new bus fares.

I have written and been published here before. I have called bus fares price gouging. The math is complicated but the basis of my argument is that without accountable ticket selling how can bus owners report to tax services? And two, if they are losing money why have buses not filed for bankruptcy? Maybe it is because they are making money.

How does it make sense that diesel price per gallon goes up a two or three dollars and u raise fares to inconvenient old buses by two or three dollars? You don't need a gallon fuel per customer. Bus owners and your UDP time president come Betta than dat.

I agree to the new bus fares IF:

1) YOU, bus owners, are in line with the government and will have new buses by the November 2026. I think the ceiling of 7-8 year-old buses for Premium is too high.... How about 3-4 years. By the way what are we calling an Express Bus? I have never been in one in Belize.

2) YOU, bus owners, commit to a ticketing system that allows transparency and you can pay the proper taxes. Right now, I can see you bamboozling the government with taxes. Many of you are using cheaper Mexican diesel... it is cheaper now with the Hormuz prices as Mexican subsidized fuel has not been raised. Remember Mexico has refineries so no comparing with them. Some of our buses use locally produced diesel from Belizean underground. Yes, folks we do have crude refineries in Belize. So, please sell tickets online; the modern systems are not even modern. But...oh, I heard one owner say, it's expensive to sell tickets. Ha.... It is because then they have to pay the right taxes.

3) YOU commit to reverting prices once the price of fuel goes back down. I understand this will probably not happen but put it in writing to the people.

People, when is the last time we saw a bus commercial other than Floralia or NBC or maybe Westline? In large part, take the people for granted. Its reminds me of the old Brads Boledo.... same old UDP. PUP stayed with all the bus lines in 2020....of course, with the majority UDP-leaning. There was no intention to please us commuters.

Are bus owners contributing to improving the highways? The government is spending millions on them plus cleaning the roadside as buses to little contain garbage within the bus. I have seen conductors kick garbage out of the bus.

Are buses liaising with the Tourism industry to advance to a level where Tourists can see a schedule and travel the country easily. Tour guides can wait

for them at destinations. This includes local tourism.

I don't use buses to travel for fun within Belize as jeez that is punishment. But if modern AC buses would be accessible then it would be an option for many. Buses should run EVEN on vacation time. Advertise this once you have new buses!

My brain is locked in to that October date that has been set for new buses. So am giving it to November to begin rolling but not all commuters may be so forgiving. I hope for the best and hope that my words are read by those that can make a difference.

Belize is progressing and prices move along with it. A quick check around the region will tell you that bus prices are not small but it needs to be presented with clarity.

There are more commuters than bus owners. There are more people winning (including UDPs) than bus owners.

Thanks for reading,
PUP Commuter

LETTER TO THE Editor

NEBL Players Must Be Role Models

Dear Editor,

What should have been a thrilling matchup between the Belize City Defenders and the Orange Walk Running Rebels instead became a disappointing display that has left many fans disheartened.

The recent altercation, which resulted in suspensions, fines, and even a season-ending ban for one player, crossed a line that should never be crossed in sports in Belize. While rivalry is a natural and exciting part of competition, there must always be a level of discipline and respect that guides players on and off the court.

These athletes are not just competitors—they are role models. Young Be-

lizeans look up to them, hoping to follow in their footsteps locally and in some cases internationally. When players engage in fights, ignore officials, and display poor sportsmanship, they send the wrong message to the next generation.

The National Elite Basketball League was right to act decisively. Accountability is necessary, and the requirement for public apologies is a step in the right direction. Still, this moment should serve as a wake-up call.

Belize has the talent to shine on bigger stages, but talent alone is not enough. Character, discipline, and professionalism must come with it.

Let us demand better from our players—not just for the game, but for the future of Belizean sports.

Sincerely,
Sammy T

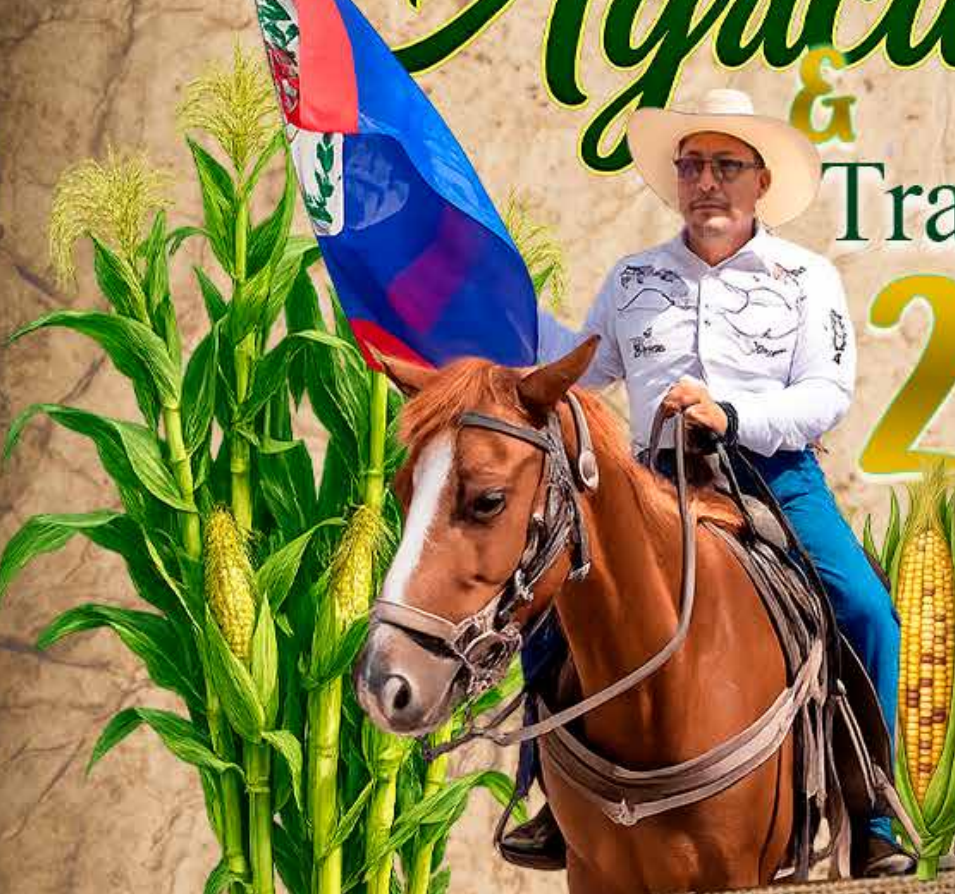


"Advancing Smart Agriculture: Building a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Belizean Food System"

National Agriculture & Trade Show 2026

Belmopan

Opening ceremonies: April 30
Events: May 1, 2, 3





HAPPY EARTH DAY
OUR POWER, OUR PLANET

CPM

DESPERATE AND IRRELEVANT

Still reeling from their woeful performance in the 2026-2027 National Budget Debate, which even Jules Vasquez had to concede made them look more unelectable than ever, Tracy and her UDP are desperate for a comeback. So, they called yet another press conference.

They were hoping to cash in on what they saw as a few challenging issues confronting the government, among them the threat of a strike by bus owners still operating under the Belize Bus Association (BBA). Being the political arsonists that they are, the desperate Opposition opportunists were seeking to pounce on those issues for political mileage.

Unfortunately for Tracy and her floundering UDP, the headlines were well ahead of them, and by the time their press conference came, Cabinet had already forged an understanding with bus operators to regularize and streamline passenger fares nationwide in order to ensure sustainability and stability in the public transportation sector. So, the anticipated unrest which was expected to provide much-needed oxygen for the dying opposition had quickly dissipated.

What were they left with? Just a hapless recitation of other news headlines which are admittedly of concern to the public, but which all right-thinking citizens agree must be addressed and tackled in an objective, non-partisan manner. Such issues include crime and domestic violence.

Notably, when the women-led UDP panel began beating up on perpetrators of domestic abuse and violence, their lead Senator, Patrick Faber, quickly disappeared from the head table for reasons, so obvious, we need

not spell them out.

Also of note was the fact that while the rest of them came all decked out in red, Ann Marie Williams wore bright yellow, apparently distinguishing herself from the desperate loyalists and preparing to be sidelined with the expected homecoming of Carla Barnett from CARICOM headquarters.

The UDP Leader herself was patently underwhelming in her opening statement, as she always is; and her Chairlady, the hotheaded senator, was all over the place, just as usual. As to the waste of time Senator from San Pedro, so uneventful was his contribution, it's as if he wasn't there.

Literally and physically absent, of course, was their disappointing Leader from the North, Hugo Patt; and so was the enlightened member for Cayo West, Honorable Miguel Guerra, who publicly and genuinely supports the PUP national development agenda, although he nominally bears the title of UDP Second Deputy.

Seeing their pitiful performance at that latest press performance, coming on the heels of their woeful budget debate showing, we are tempted to feel sorry for the UDP. The only reason we will resist giving in to those feelings is the fact that they did so much damage to our country in thirteen years, and arrogantly so, that they deserve no such sympathy.

What is clear, though, is that the UDP as an Opposition is quickly becoming irrelevant, while the PUP forges forward with the most positive and proactive national development agenda that is rooted in an unshakeable faith and belief in the capacity and resilience of the Belize People.

MORE DESPERATION
UDP HOTP LIES WITH
OLD PICTURE

The UDP is all over the place begging for issues if not they are making up issues. While the PUP is making the difficult decisions, the UDP remnants are trying to get a vote out of it. The UDP characters of today are the shady remnants of the old Barrow incompetent and self-proclaimed corrupt administration. There is no moral standing for the Faber-Chang-Panton triumvirate to lean on. We are still waiting for their confessions and resignations. IF the PUP were corrupt, the first ones to signal the proof is this same set. But since there is nothing, then they cry: Price a Living, Transfers, and fake news via 7 and HoTP posts like the one on Albert Street using a picture from UDP times most likely.

HoTP were caught lying as ALL UDPs have been caught doing....from House of Representative to the corner of the streets. And instead of apologizing they double down on it. IN other words, they insult their readers. When you don't get Likes nor LOLs then you are being ignored for being slanderous.

This is what we mean when we say there is NO Opposition in Belize. Even the UDP mouthpieces take to misinformation to try to gain something. Then they go even more backwards.

Let's wait for LOO to disavow this!

Let's wait for an apology from this rag HoTP online UDP propaganda machine!

Should this UDP Online HoTP Page even be allowed to be online? The lies are too blatant.....way beyond freedom of speech.

What did HoTP do? They posted an old picture of Albert Street probably after a celebration saying that the PUP is not taking care of the streets. How low is that?

The picture with 'Garbage' is so old...Scotia Bank and Blue Bird still existed.....and probably.

Yes, we all need to do better to keep trash where it belongs. HoTP, don't be so hot and depressed to lie about this.

Did HoTP break the law with this post?

Parent & Guardian Newsletter:
Understanding Autism

Read the full newsletter aby
scanning the QR Code or here:
<https://app.smore.com/n/8z0627>
We learn and grow together.



We're excited to share our special Stella Maris newsletter for parents and guardians. This issue focuses on autism awareness, understanding, and support.

- Here's what you'll find inside:
- *Simple guidance on autism
 - *Tips to support your child at home
 - *Helpful videos & resources
 - *Belize-based support services
 - *Every child is unique and capable.

BELIZEPROPERTYAUCTIONS.COM

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE: MOTORCYCLE & GOLF CARTS

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize.

BY ORDER of the Mortgagees Messrs. Atlantic Bank Limited, Licensed Auctioneers Kevin A. Castillo and Christiana R. Castillo are selling ONLINE via belizepropertyauctions.com the following motorcycle and golf carts. Sale currently running and will expire fortnightly on the dates and times listed on the website until this

MOTORCYCLE & GOLF CARTS



125cc Blue Honda Motorcycle



"FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & PHOTOGRAPHS PLEASE VISIT WEBSITE"

TERMS: STRICTLY CASH
KEVIN A. CASTILLO
TELEPHONE 223-4488
Website: belizepropertyauctions.com
E-mail: kevinacas@yahoo.com
Facebook: Belize Auction

FOR SALE BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE
The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.
All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.
SCHEDULE
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 70 containing 873.440 square meters situate in the New Hattieville Area, Belize District, Belize bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 681 of 2001 attached to Ministers Fiat Grant No. 681 of 2001, Plan No. 3545, Reg No. 20, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 10th day of December, 2018 being the freehold interest of LEE ROY HOWER.
ALL THAT LOT, piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 1 situate at the Boom Pine Ridge Belize River, Block No. 114 comprising 0.45 acres of land as shown on Plan Entry No. 19811 Register No. 37, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 22nd day of November, 2022 being the freehold interest of ANDY JOSLYN GILHARRY.
ALL THAT piece or parcel of land being Lot No. 2 situate at the Boom Pine Ridge Belize River, Block 114 comprising 0.23 acres of land , as shown on Plan Entry No. 19811 Register No. 37 held, under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 22nd day of November, 2022 being the freehold interest of ANDY JOSLYN GILHARRY.
ALL THAT lot, piece or parcel of land being a portion of 9.45 acres of land situate at approximately Mile 5 on the Burrel Boom Mussell Creek Road, Burrel Boom Village, Belize District, Belize being the Lot Nos. 10 & 12 each containing 1388.795 square yards and which Plan has been duly authenticated and recorded at the Lands and Survey Department on Belmopan in Surveyor's Plans Book Register No. 21 at Entry No. 3040, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated the 3rd day of November 2005 being the freehold interest of ERSSIE GOFF.
Parcel No. 938, Block No. 4, San Jose Palmar Registration Section containing 0.796 Acre (s) situate in San Jose Palmar Village, Orange Walk District, Belize held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of JOEZER ALAN REYES surety for ANNA LUISA REYES.
ALL THAT LOT PIECE OR PARCEL of land being Lot No. 70 containing 329.911 square meters situate South of the Western Highway, near Mile 17 1/2, Belize District, Belize bounded and described as shown by Plan No. 2058 on Minister's Fiat Grant No. 113 of 1999 dated 26th March, 1999, held under a Deed of Conveyance dated 21st day of January, 2010 being the freehold interest of OMAR LISBEY CASTILLO.
DATED THIS 8TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

WORK CONTINUES IN 2026

PM John Briceño



US DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER LANDAU: "EXCELLENT DISCUSSION TODAY WITH PM JOHN BRICENO & FM FONSECA. BELIZE HAS BEEN A STRONG PARTNER ON SECURITY AND MIGRATION ISSUES..."

Girls in ICT 2026 Day

Min. Francis Fonseca, MoECST team



"LEAD LIKE A 501GIRL"

Municipal Work



OWTC AT HELPAGE



OWTC SIGN LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

OWTC & Hon. Bernard, BWS, BEL



OW EAST'S ZERICOTE ST. PREPPING FOR UPGRADES

Hurricane Hunter Visits



MIN. HENRY CHARLES, DRM; MAYOR WAGNER, US EMBASSY OFFICIALS, PILOT AND OTHERS



SADIE VERNON AND OTHER STUDENTS VISITING

Belmopan City



COMMUNITY MEETING

Belize City Council



CLEANING STREETS, EMPTYING DRAINS, UP-GRADING STREETS, REMOVING OLD VEHICLES AND MORE

Benque Viejo Del Carmen Town Council



EARLY MORNING WEEKLY PLANNING

Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez, Corozal



SUPPORTING SPORTS IN THE BAY

Hon. Louis Zabaneh, Dangriga



MEETING W/ THE PEOPLE



VISITING THE MULTIPURPOSE PARK UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Transport Ministry



NEW VEHICLES FOR CITIZEN ROAD SAFETY

Massive Overhaul



GEORGE PRICE HIGHWAY



PHILIP GOLDSON HIGHWAY

Water is Life!

Hon. Ramon Cervantes, OW North



SAN ROMAN RIO HONDO UPKEEP OF AREA

Hon. Oscar Requena, Tol. West

Min. Rural Transformation



OTOXHA VILLAGE, TOLEDO

Min. Espat, MIDH all Over Belize



RMU: KEEP TRASH IN VEHICLES; DISPOSE AT DESTINATION



IMPROVING CITIZEN SAFETY



BUSTING OUT NEW ROADS FOR NEW RESIDENTS

Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026

King's Baton Relay



HON. HENRY CHARLES SUPPORTING



HON. MARCONI LEAL, JR., SUPPORTING



'SEGUIMOS MUY BIEN'

Belize Participates ONE Caribbean Ministerial Dialogue



Belize delegation helps shape next phase of landmark regional cooperation initiative.

April 21, 2026 - Belize was represented today at the ONE Caribbean Ministerial Dialogue, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The delegation included Mrs. Narda Garcia, Alternate Governor of Belize to the IDB and Chief Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Investment and Civil Aviation, and Ms. Cinnamon Bottaro, Belize's Representative on the Board of Directors at the IDB.

and Tobago. The program focuses on four critical areas: climate resilience and disaster risk management; citizen security; private sector development; and food security.

CEO Narda Garcia led the discussion on building safer communities, guiding a ministerial-level peer exchange on regional priorities for citizen security, including combatting transnational organized crime, protecting vulnerable populations, and strengthening cybersecurity across the region. In that capacity, she drew on Belize's experience to help frame a forward-looking conversation on where regional cooperation can deliver the greatest impact for Caribbean citizens in the years ahead.

Belize also participated actively in discussions across all four thematic sessions, reflecting the country's direct stake in ONE Caribbean's work. Belize has benefited from the program's infrastructure planning support, including the development of an updated National

Transport Master Plan and a new Domestic Airports Master Plan. Belize is also among the countries identified as having strong potential to contribute to the region's food security through expanded intra-regional agricultural trade.

The Ministerial Dialogue reaffirmed strong political commitment to ONE Caribbean and provided direction for deepening regional cooperation in its next phase. For Belize, continued engagement with the program's Project Preparation Coordination Mechanism (PPCM), designed to transform project concepts into bankable, investment-ready proposals, remains a priority, alongside growing engagement in the citizen security and food security pillars.

The Government of Belize remains committed to the vision at the heart of ONE Caribbean: transforming the region's shared vulnerabilities into collective resilience and sustainable prosperity. (Release)



The Ministerial Dialogue brought together ministers, senior government officials, and development partners from across the Caribbean to take stock of the first two years of ONE Caribbean, the IDB Group's flagship regional program, and to shape its next phase of programming through 2029.

Launched in 2024 at the request of the IDB Board of Governors, ONE Caribbean promotes sustainable development through practical, results-oriented regional cooperation across Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Suriname, and Trinidad



NOTICE TO MARINERS

Dredging operations will be conducted at the mouth of the Belize River, near Haulover commencing April 20th 2026.

Obstructions will be marked by flashing red lights at night. During the daytime, the silt curtains and dredger will be visible with bright colors.

For information contact: Belize City Council
810 Regent Street,
Belize City, Belize
Tel: +501 280 3073



NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 7(1) OF THE FISCAL INCENTIVES REGULATIONS CHAPTER 54 OF THE LAWS OF BELIZE, Edition 2023

It is hereby notified for general information that the principals of Golden Bay Hotel by Marine Parade Limited (hereinafter called 'the Company') submitted an application for an Approved Enterprise Order under the Fiscal Incentives Act, Chapter 54 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2023.

The Company currently operates in tourism industry and intends to develop and expand the second phase of its hotel located at #1160 Marine Parade Blvd, Belize City, Belize.

Any person who desires to object to the granting of a fiscal incentive may submit a letter of objection, not more than seven days after the date of the second publication of the Notice of Application for the Fiscal Incentive.

The letter of objection shall be in writing and include any evidence in support of any claims made addressed to the Executive Director, Belize Trade and Investment Development Service, on or before April 30th, 2026, to executive.director@beltrade.bz or call at 880-3737

MBEMC Hosts Validation Workshop
Belize’s Blue Economy Development Policy
& Strategy

April 21, 2026 - The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation (MBEMC) convened a stakeholder validation workshop on Thursday, April 16, 2026, to review the stocktaking and implementation review of Belize’s Blue Economy Development Policy and Strategy (BEDPS), marking a critical step toward strengthening the country’s blue economy framework.



The workshop brought together key stakeholders from across government, the private sector, academia, and civil society to review and assess progress made since the adoption of the BEDPS in 2022 and to help shape the next phase of its implementation. The review process aims to evaluate achievements to date, identify challenges and opportunities, and develop a clear, actionable plan to advance the remaining priorities under the policy framework.

Findings presented during the workshop highlighted significant strides in advancing Belize’s blue economy. Since 2022, the Ministry and its partner agencies have undertaken a wide range of initiatives aligned with BEDPS priorities, including the establishment of the Blue Economy Unit, development of key policies



Beverly Wade
(CEO Blue Economy & Marine Conservation)

such as the National Mariculture Policy and National Seagrass Management Policy, and the formation of the National Sargassum Task Force.

Additionally, Belize has strengthened its institutional and legislative framework through ongoing work on the Blue Economy Bill and the enactment of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management Act in 2025. Strategic partnerships and international engagement have further positioned Belize as a leader in blue economy development, with participation in global forums and the mobilization of significant financial resources to support sustainable growth initiatives.

The review process also underscored areas requiring continued focus, noting that while progress has been substantial, several priority actions remain outstanding. Key challenges identified include stakeholder coordination and communication gaps.

The Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation extends its appreciation to all stakeholders for their valuable contributions and continued partnership in advancing Belize’s blue economy. (release)

Senior Courts of Belize
The Judicial Education Institute Hosts
High-Level AI Training

Belize City, Belize - Chief Justice, the Honourable Mde. Louise Esther Blenman announced that the Judicial Education Institute (JEI) of the Senior Courts of Belize, in alignment with the Courts’ Strategic Plan and in support of the judiciary’s broader transformation agenda, hosted a three-day, high-level training on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The training was help from Tuesday, 21st April 2026 to Thursday, 23rd April 2026 at the Main Courtroom, New Court Building, Belize City.

“This initiative underscores the JEI’s continued commitment to strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and is designed to equip Judges, Magistrates, Registrars, Judicial Assistants, Attorneys-At-Law of the private and public bar, and Administrative Staff with the knowledge and practical skills necessary

to responsibly enhance efficiency in their daily functions. The participants will gain valuable insight into the application of artificial intelligence within the legal sector, with careful consideration given to ethical obligations and the preservation of judicial integrity.” - release

The training will be facilitated by distinguished presenter, Mr. Mark Bissett of the United Kingdom, who brings extensive experience in delivering AI-focused training across multiple jurisdictions and is generously offering his expertise without recompense. His practical and insightful approach is expected to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of both the opportunities and limitations of AI in the legal context, with particular emphasis on safeguarding core judicial values in an evolving technological landscape. (release)



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING
SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: Consultancy to develop automated processes for data analysis and visualization through training in python and other programming language to create additional agromet products
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-541616-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) is to upgrade the functionality of SURFACE CDMS to significantly improve the creation of agricultural products through the integration with the R statistical programming language and existing R software packages for product generation such as R-Instat. An updated, cloud-based version of SURFACE will showcase automated product generation demonstrating the potential for new innovations in product creation for the agricultural sector. It will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of providing timely climatic information to farmers that will assist them in making critical decisions to avoid losses and increase productivity.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the Project, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI) will have overall responsibility for the Project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org. The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

- Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)**
Qualifications
- A software engineer with a computer science degree, or equivalent (Max 20 points)
- General Experience**
- At least 10 years experience in the role of expert/lead software engineer. (Max 20 points)

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

- Additional Requirements (Desirable)**
Specific Experience
- Must have experience of working with Climate Data Management Systems, Relational Database Management systems (including Postgres) and experience delivering solutions in Django, R and web frameworks including VueJS. (Max 20 points)
 - Must have experience working with OGC API standards and an awareness of WMO standards including the WMO Climate Data Model standard. (Max 20 points)
 - Experience with the R-Instat statistical software is highly desirable. (Max 20 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by May 6, 2026 at 13:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

Water is Life! Secured by GoB

Progress in Otoxha Village: Double the Success!



The Ministry of Rural Transformation is thrilled to share some great news from the field! It has been a highly successful week for our teams in Otoxha Village, where both rig crews successfully drilled not just one, but two wells. These aquifers show great potential to serve as the primary and backup sources for the community's upcoming Rudimentary Water System.



The Ministry will now move forward and schedule pump and water quality testing for both sites to ensure they meet standards. We are optimistic that these results will pave the way for a reliable, long-term water supply for the village.

We are incredibly proud of our crews' hard work as we move one step closer to ensuring safe and sustainable water for the people of Otoxha!

Securing and Enhancing Local Infrastructure

The Ministry of Rural Transformation is proud to announce the successful completion of the full fencing and painting of the San Roman Rio Hondo Rudimentary Water System in the Orange Walk District. This project is a joint collaboration between the Ministry, the local Waterboard, and Area Representative Hon. Ramon Cervantes.



These upgrades secure and revitalize this essential community facility, ensuring long-term sustainability for the residents. Onward with progress! (post)

Orange Walk District San Jose Nuevo Palmar - August Pine Ridge Strengthening Water Systems & Resilience



April 17 - The Ministry of Rural Transformation delivered essential resources to the Orange Walk District to strengthen local water systems.

The waterboards of San Jose Nuevo Palmar and August Pine Ridge received a significant consignment of pipes to expand their community water systems to more households. Additionally, San Jose Nuevo Palmar was also equipped with a new heavy-duty backup generator to ensure a consistent water supply during power outages.



We remain committed to ensuring our rural communities have access to safe, potable water—providing the essential tools they need to thrive, one village at a time. (post)



Taiwan condemns PRC coercion that led to 3 countries revoking overflight clearances for President Lai Ching-te's state visit to Eswatini.

2026-04-22 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs solemnly condemns China for using political and economic means to pressure other countries to change their sovereign decisions, cancel our special flight permit, and refute public opinion that impairs our sovereignty!

Lai Ching-te President Originally scheduled to visit on April 22 at the invitation of my African friend H.M. King Mswati III, the Kingdom of Swatini, the tour was not successful due to the temporary withdrawal of the special flight permit by the Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar without warning.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs solemnly condemned China's politicization and weaponization of the aviation intelligence area, interfering in other countries' sovereign decisions and affecting the normal operation of international civil aviation. At the same time, it strongly protest against the attempts of Senegal and Madagascar to distort speech from China, challenging international practices and aviation safety. In addition, it solemnly called on the international community to face up to China's political and economic pressure and blatant interference in other countries' internal affairs. Such actions not only target Taiwan, but also seriously affect and challenge the global democratic order and international rule of law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again reiterated that Republic of China Taiwan is a sovereign and independent democratic country. It is not affiliated with the People's Republic of China and has the right to go to the world. No country can stop Any attempt to discredit Taiwan's sovereign status cannot change the internationally recognized objective status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also sincerely thanks the Kingdom of Eswatini and the friendly alliance and like-minded countries that mediated in helping our country negotiate. Taiwan will continue to expand its diplomatic space in a

pragmatic and stable way, firmly go to the world and let the world enter Taiwan.

MOFA strongly condemns PRC political & economic coercion enacted to pressurize other countries into changing their sovereign decisions, revoking overflight clearances & parroting PRC talking points!

President Lai Ching-te's planned state visit to our African ally, Eswatini, on an invitation from King Mswati III, had to be canceled after Seychelles, Mauritius, and Madagascar revoked overflight clearances without warning just before departure.

MOFA condemns the PRC's politicization and weaponization of flight information regions to interfere in the sovereign decisions of other countries, seriously impacting the routine functioning of global civil aviation networks. We also protest Seychelles and Madagascar parroting PRC talking points that challenge international norms and flight safety. We call on the international community to recognize the political and economic coercion that the PRC enacts against other countries, as well as its flagrant interference in their internal politics. This behavior is not solely directed at Taiwan, but also poses a threat to the democratic world order and international law.

MOFA reiterates that the Republic of China (Taiwan) is a sovereign democratic nation, and neither side of the Taiwan Strait is subordinate to the other. We have a right to engage with the world, and no country should stand in our way. Any statements that attempt to undermine Taiwan's sovereignty have no bearing on the global consensus and the objective reality of the Taiwan Strait status quo.

MOFA offers sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Eswatini and other allies and like-minded countries that have attempted to mediate on our behalf. Taiwan will continue to adopt a pragmatic and steady approach in expanding our diplomatic space and engaging with the world.

Congratulations!

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COMING UP: MID-FEBRUARY IN CAYO & BELMOPAN

Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026 King's Baton Relay Belize's Turn

20th April 2026 - Belize welcomed the King's Baton Relay today, marking the country's participation in the lead-up to the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games and celebrating the power of sport to unite communities across the Commonwealth.

The Welcome Ceremony, held in Belmopan, was hosted by the British High Commission (BHC) in partnership with the Belize Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association (BOCGA) and brought together representatives from government, civil society, the commonwealth, youth organisations, and the sporting sector.



The King's Baton Relay is one of the most recognisable traditions of the Commonwealth Games, travelling through Commonwealth countries and territories ahead of each Games. It symbolises shared values including unity, excellence, inclusion, and international friendship, while generating excitement and momentum as athletes prepare for competition.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Alistair White, High Commissioner to Belize, highlighted the broader significance of the Relay beyond sport: *"The King's Baton Relay is a powerful symbol of Commonwealth connection. It reflects our shared values of friendship, cooperation, and ambition; values that sit at the heart of both the Commonwealth Games and the long-standing partnership between the UK and Belize."*

The ceremony placed strong emphasis on Belize's role within the Commonwealth Games, with the Belize Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association reaffirming its commitment to supporting athletes, promoting sport, and engaging communities on the road to Glasgow 2026.

Mr. Allan Sharp, President of the Belize Olympic & Commonwealth Games Association, noted the importance of the occasion for Belizean sport: *"The welcoming of the King's Baton in Belize is both symbolic and motivating. It reminds us of the opportunities the Commonwealth Games create for our athletes and our sporting community, and it strengthens our collective journey toward Glasgow 2026."*

In addition to celebrating sport, the event highlighted how the Commonwealth Games platform is being used to advance shared priorities, including sustainability and environmental action. A Call to



Action on the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Plastics Campaign encouraged collective responsibility for protecting marine and coastal environments across the Commonwealth. Guests were invited to participate in making campaign pledges, reinforcing commitments to the values promoted through the Games.

The programme also included cultural elements showcasing Belizean creativity, reflections from the Baton's local artist Mr. Keion Griffith, and a ceremonial reveal and passing of the King's Baton, marking Belize's official pathway to the Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2026.

As Belize continues its preparations for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, the King's



Baton will serve as a focal point for national engagement, celebration, and inspiration; linking Belizean communities to the global Commonwealth through sport and shared values. (release)

The Kings Baton activities continues with Cleanup campaigns by participating High Schools and a Cultural Pok-ta-Pok match in Yo Creek Village Orange Walk. (release)

Guidance for Public Health Medicine Sale Categories



General Over-the-Counter

Available in Grocery & Convenience Stores



Readily Available

Good for Minor Pains, Cold & Flu

Safe when Used as Directed

Pharmacy Over-the-Counter

Available ONLY at Pharmacies & Licensed Health Facilities



Do Not Require a Prescription

Supplied by Pharmacist or Health Professional

Pharmacist can Offer Guidance

Prescription

Requires a Doctor's Prescription



Requires a Doctor and Supervision because they:

Treat more Serious Conditions

Require Proper Diagnosis

May cause side effects if used incorrectly

May interact with other medicines

**Tiered Bus Service Fares
Maintaining Reliable &
Accessible Transportation**

Belmopan, April 21, 2026

Following engagement with the Belize Bus Association (BBA), Cabinet has approved the introduction of a tiered fare adjustment for the National Highway public transportation sector.

This measure is aimed at maintaining consistent and reliable bus services across the country while ensuring that affordable national highway public transportation options remain available to commuters.

The system establishes three service categories:

--Regular Service: up to \$0.18 per mile

--Express Service: up to \$0.20 per mile

--Premium Service (new, optional): up to \$0.22 per mile

These per mile rates, when translated to respective fares, will be rounded to the nearest \$0.25.

Regular and express services will continue as the primary options available to the public. The new premium service introduces an additional choice for commuters who prefer an upgraded travel option, without affecting the availability of standard services. The criteria for premium service are that buses are no older than seven years, must have air conditioning, comfortable and spacious bucket seats, free Wi-Fi, and operate non-stop between municipalities and major designated populated areas.

The Ministry will continue working with bus operators to guide implementation and ensure continuity of service nationwide.

These fares become effective on Friday, April 24, 2026, and will be published on or before midday Thursday, April 23, 2026, on our Ministry's Facebook page at *Min. Constitution & Religious Affairs, Indigenous Affairs & Transportation*, and through local media outlets.

**Garifuna Music, Culture, & Legacy
Celebrating Award-Winning
Voices of Our People**

Councillor Kaya Cattouse proudly participated in the Music Album Reveal brought by the Battle of the Drums, celebrating a powerful initiative dedicated to preserving and uplifting Garifuna culture through music.

This annual Garifuna Song Competition continues to inspire young artists to create meaningful, high-quality Garifuna music, now strengthened by the establishment of a music publishing company. Through this effort, nine award-winning original songs have been compiled into the album

Hamalali Wanigu ("Voices of Our People"), showcasing talent from the Belize Garifuna Song Competition between 2017 and 2024.

The live concert featured performances of these remarkable songs and honored five senior Garifuna artists who have contributed over 40 years to the industry. With the album officially launched at the event and now available on over 20 streaming platforms, this initiative

not only celebrates culture but also creates real opportunities for artists to monetize their work.
Here at the Belize City Council, we proudly support initiatives like this and remain inspired by the richness, resilience, and beauty of our Garifuna heritage. (BCC post)



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medications**

should **always** be used **carefully**
and **according** to instructions.



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APPLY TODAY

DEADLINE: **FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026**

GO FURTHER!

GOB Hosts

Workshop to Strengthen Fiscal Policy for Climate Action

The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Transformation (MET) convened a technical workshop on “Strengthening Strategic Fiscal Policy for Climate Action in Belize” at the Grand Resort and Residences in Belize City on April 21, 2026.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders to review progress, discuss methodological approaches, and identify priority actions to strengthen the integration of climate risks and biodiversity considerations into fiscal policy and public financial management in Belize.

The findings of an assessment conducted in March 2026 were also presented, revealing a fiscal policy framework in which strategic commitments are increasingly aligned with climate and biodiversity objectives. These efforts have been strengthened since 2022, supported by a growing body of documentation, institutional reforms, and innovative financing instruments.

Mr. Leroy Martinez, Director of the Integrated Climate Finance Development and Coordination Unit (CFU), delivered remarks on behalf of MET, stating: “The real value of this process is what comes next—turning this diagnostic into action. Belize faces growing climate and economic



pressures that are already impacting public finances and development. Strengthening our fiscal policy is essential to building resilience and securing a sustainable future.”

The workshop also facilitated the exchange of experiences and contributed to shaping practical, implementable solutions tailored to the national context. Discussions focused on key tools and policy options, including climate budget tagging, fiscal risk management, green public procurement, sustainable finance instruments, sustainable taxonomies, and capacity building to strengthen Belize’s fiscal architecture for climate action. In addition, priority workstreams, institutional responsibilities, and next steps were identified to guide the next phase of the initiative.

The Government of Belize remains committed to ensuring that fiscal policy serves as a key instrument in addressing climate risks, supporting sustainable growth, and improving the well-being of its people. The workshop received technical support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). (release)

Robotics Competition

TEAM SCA OFF TO VEX WORLDS 2026

Representing Belize internationally once more is a Saint Catherine Academy delegation. They are proudly attending the VEX Worlds Robotics Competition in St. Louis, Missouri. This global event brings together some of the brightest young minds in robotics. These are the Mercy Girls. They are gaining invaluable exposure to cutting-edge innovation and problem-solving at the highest level.

Their institution and Belize are equally incredibly proud of the delegation for representing. They are equally inspired by their school colors, the Blue and Gold as they intend to excel with curiosity and enthusiasm as they explore and connect with the world of robotics on an international stage.

We look forward to a triumphant return.



SCA Vice Principal Jamie Usher with Bob Mimplitch - Co-Founder of VEX



Belize Port Authority

21st meeting Intersessional Working Group Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships

The Belize Port Authority is actively participating in the 21st meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (ISWG-GHG 21), taking place from April 20–24, 2026 in London.

Representing the Authority are Ms. Jaeda Sutherland (Projects Lead), Ms. Yvanna Slusher (Project & Quality Officer), and Mr. Clint McCulloch (Supervisor), alongside Ms. Darlin Gaitan, Technical Officer from the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize.

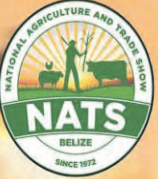
This week’s session marks an important step in ongoing international discussions under the International Maritime Organization, as Member States continue working toward practical approaches for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from shipping. The outcomes of ISWG-GHG 21 will inform deliberations at the upcoming MEPC 84 meeting.

Current discussions are cen-



tered on shaping a clear and workable pathway toward reducing reliance on conventional marine fuels, in line with the IMO’s broader environmental targets. While progress has been made in recent sessions, key elements of the proposed framework remain under active consideration as countries work to reach common ground.

For Belize, participation in these discussions is essential. As a nation that depends on maritime transport for trade and economic activity, Belize supports solutions that are not only environmentally responsible but also realistic and inclusive of the needs of smaller economies. (Post)




GRAN CABALGATA

Friday, May 1st 2026

NATS BELIZE

RODEO and LIVESTOCK SHOW



Parade leaves Embassy of Mexico Field @ 1:00 p.m.
and ends at the Rodeo Arena, National Agriculture
& Trade Show Grounds

The Voice of the Common Man

BELIZE HOSTS CARIBBEAN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONFERENCE 2026

By Hilly Bennett
“The strength of the STC 2026 lies in the diversity of voices and expertise coming together to shape the future of Caribbean tourism”
Narendra Ramgulam

La Isla Bonita, San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, will be the venue for the upcoming 17th edition of the Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Development Conference (STC2026), taking place from April 27 to 30, 2026, convening regional and international tourism leaders in one setting. It will feature a dynamic lineup of presenters from across the tourism spectrum.



This year’s theme “*Tourism in Full Color: Integrating Blue, Green, Orange and Beyond Economies into Sustainable Planning and Development*” is relatively the central objective that Dona Regis-Prosper, Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) hopes the conference will achieve, that is, “...encouraging destinations to move beyond fragmented planning and instead adopt integrated models that balance environmental stewardship, cultural identity, community well-being, and economic prosperity.” In a BTB press release it is suggested that “*These models are based on the Blue Economy through responsible use of coastal assets, the Green Economy by advancing low-carbon climate-resilient and nature-positive solutions, the Orange Economy by unlocking the value of culture, heritage, and creative industries and beyond* such as the Purple Economy, which emphasizes social cohesion, identity, well-being and inclusive growth.”

Dame Pania Tyson-Nathan DNZM, Chief Executive of New Zealand Maori Touri, who will be delivering the keynote address “Tourism in Full Color - A New Development Paradigm” aims to examine a more holistic approach to tourism development. Additionally, Professor Dale Webber, Jamaica’s Ambassador and Special Envoy for climate change and environment, will be examining the management of climate risks, and Paloma Zapata, CEO of Sustainable Travel International will be addressing the management of carrying capacity in a climate-constrained world. Dr Kadijatu Grace Ahene-Kamara, Deputy Minister



Dame Pania Tyson-Nathan

of Tourism and Cultural Affairs of Sierra Leone will make a presentation on inclusive development, while Dr. Scholl’s Lewis-Cameron of the University of the West Indies will address the importance of green tourism pathways. Additional perspectives will be presented from Belizean tourism expert, Seleni Matus of the George Washington University; Dahlia Guard of Saint Lucia Community Tourism Agency; Kelly Fontanelle, CEO of the St Kitts Tourism Authority; and Frank Comito, former CEO of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association.

For the Minister of Tourism, Diaspora Relations, Youth and Sports, Hon Anthony Mahler, the STC 2026 “*will serve as a dynamic platform for bold ideas and strategic partnerships.*” An echoing sentiment of Narendra Ramgulam, CTO’s Deputy Director of Sustainable Tourism that “*by bringing together policymakers, practitioners, and innovators from across sectors and regions, we are creating a platform where ideas can be exchanged, partnerships formed and practical solutions developed for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable industry.*”

The four-day event will feature a ministerial roundtable, expert plenaries, concurrent technical sessions, master classes and field-based learning experiences focused on sustainable tourism practices. Inclusive topics are blue and green financing, climate management, regenerative tourism, cultural tourism, creative industries and governance models of emerging tourism frameworks.

As Belize the Land of the Free opens its warm embrace, welcoming the participants and visitors to the shores of the Jewel, Hon Anthony Mahler emphasized that “*this conference underscores Belize’s commitment to sustainable tourism and reinforces our role as a catalyst for innovation and responsible growth in the Caribbean.*” The underlying reality is that “*Belize isn’t just a destination - it’s a place of wonder where every moment feels a little more magical.*”



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: TA Service Providers to Develop CSA Applications for Potential Beneficiary Farmers
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-536361-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) is for 6 suitable qualified individual consultants (2 for the Northern Region, 2 for Central Region and 2 for the Southern Region) to assist farmers countrywide in the formulation of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) applications to be submitted for approval to the respective Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) during the remaining life of the CRESAP Project. These 6 service providers will be expected to liaise with the relevant PFIs and coordinate with the Matching Grant Coordinator and the Environmental and Social Specialist of the BSIF PIU as needed. Additionally, all consultants engaged under this arrangement must demonstrate familiarity with the target geographic area and possess the ability to effectively communicate in the local language(s) to ensure inclusive and context-appropriate service delivery.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the Project, while the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries (MAFSNGI) will have overall responsibility for the Project.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org. The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)

Qualifications

- Minimum of an Associate Degree in business, development studies, social science, environmental science, agriculture, rural development, natural resource management, or any other field related to the assignment (20 points).

General Experience

- At least (2) years of relevant professional experience in the agriculture sector, and experience in technical assistance services, including the development of investment proposals and business plans (20 points).

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

Additional Requirements (Desirable)

Specific Experience

- Experience in designing and formulating business plans and proposals (15 points).
- Experience in providing technical assistance services in the agriculture sector (10 points).
- Experience in working with the commodities and sub-sectors in subject as per Annex 1 (10 points).
- Experience or knowledge of the country of Belize (10 points).
- Knowledge and experience of Climate Change and Climate Smart Agriculture practices in Belize (15 points).

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by May 6, 2026 at 13:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org

POLITICIANS
By Hon. Gilroy Usher

Near and far politicians
govern every single nation

Most of them seek better for
the entire population

They practice
democracy,
dictatorship, or
socialism



Some politicians are racist
supporters of pessimism

Genuine politicians address
the needs for a better life

To stop change some
politicians promote strife

Selfish “antipoor” politicians
cause suffering and pain



To stop progress others are
side-lined, imprisoned, or
slain

Most politicians promote
equal opportunities for all

Others put nepotism and
cronyism first until they fall

Politicians implement
development plans daily

They have to respond to crisis
or disaster instantly

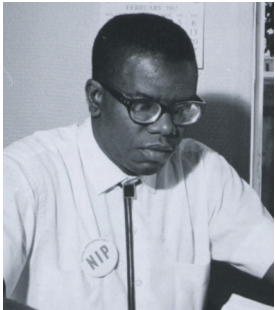
Some politicians consult;
decrees of others are no fun

Their policies result in
removal by the ballot or the
gun

Corruption by many
politicians hurt mainly
the poor



Price and Goldson are
two of the best
statesmen for sure



GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT, ECONOMIC
TRANSFORMATION, CIVIL AVIATION, AND E-GOVERNANCE
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONSULTANCY FOR PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR THE BELIZE INTEGRAL SECURITY PROGRAMME (BISP)
N° CABEI-CS-002-2147/2026

BACKGROUND

The Government of Belize (GOB) is implementing a security programme with the overall objective of improving the quality of life of Belizeans and supporting regional efforts to combat crime. The key goal of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP) is to strengthen citizen security by providing support to those institutions directly engaged in maintaining national security. The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), as part of the services it provides to its beneficiary member countries, is providing the total financing for the procurement of a consultant to fill the role of Procurement Officer in the framework of the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP). The Ministry of **Economic Transformation** will be responsible for the execution of the Programme and all its components, reporting all progress to CABEI and ensuring the execution of each component under the terms established for CABEI formulation and approval. The General Objectives of the consultancy to be contracted are to ensure the timely procurement of all Goods, Works, Services, and Consultancies subject to CABEI’s Procurement Guidelines and Belize’s Procurement Guidelines.

The Ministry of **Economic Transformation** now invites interested consultants to present their expressions of interest along with their respective resumes to participate in the selection process for the consultancy of a Procurement Officer with the Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP).

SCOPE OF WORK

The Procurement Officer is responsible for overall and day-to-day procurement activities for goods, works, services, and consultancies, subject to CABEI Procurement Guidelines and in accordance with the Project’s Operations Manual and the Loan Contract. The Procurement Officer will prepare Annual Procurement Plans (APP) and develop technical specifications for goods, works, and services contained in the APP. In addition to preparing monthly Procurement Reports for the Project Coordinator, he/she will prepare Quarterly Reports detailing the goods and services procured and funds disbursed for the previous period, the challenges encountered, and how they were resolved. He/she will also be responsible for contract administration.

SUPERVISION AND REPORTING

The Procurement Officer will work under the general guidance and report directly to the Project Coordinator. The post will be based at the Office of the Programme Executing Unit in Belmopan.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate shall have at least a bachelor’s degree in business administration, Procurement, Public Administration, Business Management, Accounting, Finance, Economics, Law, Engineering or other related disciplines, or a master’s degree in accounting, finance, economics, business administration, procurement, law, public administration, engineering, business management, or other related disciplines. A minimum of three (3) years’ experience in procurement processes of goods, works, and consulting services, and prior project management training or experience will

be considered an advantage. Experience working with Multilateral Banks and knowledge of CABEI’s procurement guidelines and procedures will be positively valued. Knowledge of written and spoken Spanish would be an asset.

TERMS

The Procurement Officer will be selected by a competitive process in accordance with the Policy for the Procurement of Goods, Works, Services, and Consultancies with CABEI resources and its Norms for Application (DI-52/2020 / PRE-40/2021). The successful candidate will be employed on a full-time contractual basis; the initial contract will be for one year.

Interested eligible Consultants may obtain further information and the complete Terms of Reference from the Programme Execution Unit of the BISP. Requests should be addressed to procurement_officer.bisp@met.gov.bz and copied to adminassistant.bisp@met.gov.bz and projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz during office hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. local time from Monday to Friday; or you can visit the Ministry of Economic Transformation’s webpage, <https://met.gov.bz>, to download the Terms of Reference. Additionally, the consultancy announcement can be found on the Government of Belize’s Procurement Portal <https://procurement.gov.bz>

Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest is **Monday, May 11th, 2026**. Expressions of interest, along with a Resume, must be sent via electronic mail (email) to procurement_officer.bisp@met.gov.bz and copied to adminassistant.bisp@met.gov.bz and projectcoordinator.bisp@met.gov.bz or via direct mail or hand delivered to the address indicated below by **9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11th, 2026**.

Late submissions will not be considered.

Project Coordinator
Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Project Management Unit
1904 Constitution Drive
2nd Floor, Unit #3
Belmopan City, Belize C.A.
Ph # (501) 828-6106
Ref: Belize Integral Security Programme (BISP)
Procurement Officer CABEI-CS-003 – 2147/2026

University of Belize

Natural and Pharmaceutical Products Expo 2026

“Healing Starts with Nature”

April 11 - The UB Natural and Pharmaceutical Products Expo 2026, held under the theme “Healing Starts with Nature,” brought innovation, research, and wellness together in one inspiring space.



The Belmopan City Council was proud to be represented by Deputy Mayor Christopher Enriquez, whose portfolio includes Fitness & Nutrition, Small Business Promotion, Tourism, and Economic Development.

Organized by the dedicated 3rd year pharmacy students, with guid-

ance from Dr. Danladi Chiroma, Yusuf Abubakar, Kishan Uppala, and Rhondine Reynolds, the expo highlighted the power of natural solutions in modern healthcare.

A powerful reminder that the future of health is rooted in knowledge, innovation, and nature.(post)



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BELIZE SIGN

BTL PARK

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SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026 AT 6 A.M.

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STANDINGS					MONDAY, APRIL 20 th AFTER WEEK 8	
TEAM NAME	GP	PTS	WINS	LOSERS		
1. ORANGE WALK RUNNING REBELS	7	12	5	2		
2. CAYO WESTERN BALLAZ	7	12	5	2		
3. BELIZE CITY DEFENDERS	7	12	5	2		
4. SAN PEDRO TIGER SHARKS	7	12	5	2		
5. GRIGA DREAM BALLERS	6	8	2	4		
6. COROZAL SPARTANS	7	8	1	6		
7. BELMOPAN TROJANS	7	8	1	6		

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

[INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT]

Final Evaluation Consultant

Institution:

Country:

Project:

Process ID:

Abstract:

Ministry of Finance

Belize

Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (STAP)

BL-L1031-P00055

Consulting Services

Deadline: May 4th, 2026, at 4 p.m. (Belize local time)

The Government of Belize (GoB) has entered into a US\$ 14 Million Loan Contract Agreement (No 4839/OC-BL) with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the execution of a five-year tax modernization project entitled “Strengthening of Tax Administration”. The main beneficiaries of the Project are: (a) the Government, which will have more revenues to implement its public policies; (b) taxpayers, who will have more support and a digital environment to fulfill their tax obligations; and (c) the population, from the government policies implemented.

The main objective of the Project is to contribute to Strengthening Tax Administration aimed at increasing revenue collection. The specific objectives of the project are the following: (i) increasing the Government’s effectiveness in tax collection; and (ii) increasing the efficiency of tax administration. These objectives will be achieved by improving tax administration governance and operational processes, and by modernizing the technological infrastructure. The three components of the Project are listed below:

Component I: Strengthening Tax Administration Governance;

Component II: Improvement of Operational Processes; and

Component III: Modernization of Technological Infrastructure.

A. Objective

The objective of the consultancy is to conduct a Final Evaluation of the execution and results of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project, providing a comprehensive and systematic analysis, including quantitative and qualitative measures of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and potential impacts of the project. The main findings, lessons learned, and recommendations associated with the project will also be presented.

B. Deliverables

The consultant shall deliver the following deliverables:

1. Methodology and work plan with an established schedule of activities within two (2) weeks after contract signature.

2. A draft of the Final evaluation report within (30) calendar days after contract signature. The consultant will take into consideration the results of the mid-term and pre-completion evaluations and combined feedback received to produce a coherent draft final evaluation report and evaluation summary

3. Final Evaluation Report within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of comments on the draft report by the executing agency, incorporating the suggestions and feedback discussed during the results dissemination and consultation workshop.

C. Qualifications of Consultant:

Education: **Minimum Academic Degree:** At least a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Economics, Governance or project evaluation-related field or equivalent.

General Experience: Minimum of three (3) years’ working experience in similar assignments

Specific Experience: Minimum of at least one (1) similar consultancy successfully completed over the last five (5) years (2021- 2025).

Languages: Proficient in written and spoken English

Skills, Knowledge, Abilities: - Experience in organizing workshops, conducting interviews, and carrying out fieldwork related to project evaluations.

D. Level of Effort, Length of Contract and Other Contract details:

Type of consultancy: Individual Consultant

Level of effort: The successful consultant will be employed on a contractual basis. The level of effort required to carry out this assignment is estimated at a maximum period of twenty - five (5) days

Duration: approximately 30 non-consecutive days within a period of three (3) calendar months.

Place of work: Belize and work from home will be an option.

Trips: At minimum two (2) trips to Belize are required for data collection and information gathering. The consultant will be responsible to arrange all transportation and other logistics.

Eligibility: Consultants who have previously been involved in any aspect pertaining to the execution of the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project are not eligible to apply.

Type of contract: Lump sum, including travel cost.

E. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Inter-American Development Bank: Policies for the Selection and Contracting of Consultants financed by the Inter-American Development Bank GN-2350-15

F. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Expression of Interest should contain:

(i) Document explaining interest, experience, and competence of the Individual consultant

(ii) Comprehensive resume with the Individual Consultant’s experience in the assignment of similar consultancy services during the past five years. Description of similar assignments specifying start and end dates of assignments. *Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held, types of activities performed and location of the assignment, and contact information of previous clients and employing organization(s).*

(iii) Proof of nationality: copy of documentation of nationality.

Qualified Individual Consultants must submit their expression of interest via e-mail to **Michelle Longsworth@bts.gov.bz** and copy **David.Duncan@mof.gov.bz** no later than 4:00 p.m. (Belize local time), on May 4th , 2026, marked **STAP- Individual Consultant to Conduct Final Evaluation** in the subject header. In addition, applicants may also submit a hard copy at the following address:

Director General

Belize Tax Service

Strengthening of Tax Administration Project

Eleanor Hall Building

Chetumal Street, Belize City

For clarifications and request of full TOR kindly contact:

Ag.Project Coordinator

Project Executing Unit

Strengthening of Tax Administration Project

Eleanor Hall Building

Chetumal Street, Belize City

E-mail: **David.Duncan@mof.gov.bz**

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that **Courtney P. Jackson** is applying for a **Publican General Liquor License** to be operated at **“Man A Yaad”** located on Young Bank Rd., Camalote Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ledy H. Saunders** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“7 Miles Lounge & Variety”** located at 7 Miles, El Progreso Village, Cayo District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Kingo Kaminski** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Belizima Resort Sunset Ltd.”** located in Los Pinos Area, Sarteneja Village, Corozal District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Jesus E. Hernandez** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Vida Sabor Y Candela”** located at # 8 Trinidad Street, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Leilani N. Romero** is applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Corner Pub”** located at # 44 San Antonio Road, Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sheila Flowers** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Castleton Entertainment Park”** located in Burrell Boom Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Sharma Palacio/Daniel Schakron** are applying for a **Malt & Cider Liquor License** to be operated at **“Amour Cafe”** located at # 36 Albert Hoy Avenue, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Marie J. Vertus** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“F & S Sisters Shop”** located at # 257 Hollywood Area, Lord’s Bank Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Aisha A. Rima** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Ibrahim Grocery & Laundromat”** located at # 75/77 West Canal Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Harish K. Harpalani** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“A1 Wholesale Imports”** located at # 3 Albert Street, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Belize Hotels Limited** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Sea-Viche Bar”** located at Fort George, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Janice Armstrong** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Crystal Spoon”** located at Pound Yard Market, Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Progress in Corozal Bay Work on Park Street



Hon. Thea Garcia Ramirez: “Another important milestone started today... and we’re going to definitely feel the difference.

Right in the heart of our town, where so many of us pass every single day, whether to do errands at the bank, get a sweet treat, buy some amazing food or even get lab tests. I proudly share that we have begun work on Park Street North.

A team is now on the ground, breaking up the road and getting it ready to pave. I know how much this street means to our daily life.

My goal is to make life easier for you. Prosperous. Safer. Better.

Corozal, I hear you. I see you. And I will keep working for you.

Better is happening. Que viva Corozal, que viva Belice!”



STATUTORY NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

IN THE ESTATE of CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH, Deceased, of No. 125 Pioneer Lane, Valrico, Florida 33594, United States of America.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 36 of the Administration of Estates Act, Chapter 197 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands upon or against the ESTATE of CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH deceased, of No. 125 Pioneer Lane, Valrico, Florida 33594, United States of America who died on the 22nd of May 2024 in whose estate a Grant of Administration has been granted to BELIZE FIDUCIARY SERVICES LIMITED, the lawful administrator of No. 35 Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize, on or before the expiration of three months from the first publication hereof AND NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that at the expiration of the said three months the said BELIZE FIDUCIARY SERVICES LIMITED shall proceed to distribute the assets of the said, CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH, deceased, amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto, having regard only to claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice.

DATED this 20th day of April 2026
GLENN D. GODFREY & COMPANY LLP
Attorneys-at-Law for

BELIZE FIDUCIARY SERVICES LIMITED
Administrator of the Estate of CHERYL LYNN GARCIA A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN PASCO A.K.A. CHERYL LYNN CHURCH

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